(*b*) whether the Government are aware that almost all these tube wells have been out of order for a long time and are incapable of being used;

(*c*) whether they have taken the trouble to have the water of these tube wells scientifically tested to ascertain whether it is fit for human consumption?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*:

(*a*) A Work Superintendent has already been appointed to look after the tube wells.

(*b*) The wells in Cranganur Taluk have already been repaired and are giving a good supply of pure water. The remaining wells in Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk are being repaired and will be completed soon. There was difficulty in getting materials and tools for the repair work.

(*c*) Yes. Water obtained from tube wells was sent to the Maharaja's College Laboratory and got examined and is found fit for human consumption.

TANK—SINKING OF—PATTANCHERI

293. Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what the report of the Director of Public Health and Panchayats was regarding the sinking of a tank in Pattancheri;

(*b*) how many times has he reported regarding the same;

(*c*) will they be pleased to place the reports on the table;

(*d*) what is the road for which the amount budgetted for the tank is to be utilised;

(*e*) what is the extent of the road;

(*f*) what is the traffic along the road;

(*g*) will this amount be sufficient for a pucca metalled road?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*:

(*a*) Proposing the sinking of a public tank.

(*b*) Three times.

(*c*) Copies of the reports are placed on the table.

(*d*) The Panchayat has proposed to utilise the amounts for improving communication facilities. The matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*g*) Please see answer to (*d*).

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: Was it not as a result of the enquiry made on the petitions and representations made to the Government that Government found the tank an urgent necessity?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Yes.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: Then why was it given up?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The present Panchayat recommended the utilisation of that amount for communications.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: The two former Panchayats said that the tank was very necessary and the present Panchayat says that it is not necessary. Is it because that the President is a Chittur man, two members belong to Meenakshipuram some 12 miles away and 2 others belong to places 6 miles away from Pattancheri proper?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: All these facts have been brought to the notice of the Government, and the matter is under the consideration of Government.

EXCESS PROFITS AND INCOME-TAX ACTS—AMOUNT OF TAX EXPECTED TO BE COLLECTED

294. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Will Government be pleased to state the amount of tax that the Government expect to collect by the operation of the new Income-tax Act and the Excess Profits Tax Act?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: A collection of about Rs. 1,50,000 is expected under "Income-tax and Super Tax" over and above possible collection under the old Act. The expected collection of Excess Profits Tax is Rs. 3,50,000.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know, Sir, the approximate number of persons from whom this excess profits tax will be collected?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I want notice.

A.R.P. OFFICER TO TRICHUR—APPOINTMENT OF

295. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether an A.R.P. Officer has been appointed to Trichur or to the northern taluks of the State; what are the qualifications of such an officer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: An A.R.P. Officer has been appointed for Trichur. He was the Chief Warden, A.R.P. Service at Ernakulam, and was also in charge of the duties of the A.R.P. Officer, Ernakulam, while the latter went to Calcutta to take

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the Officer's course. Mr. Kumaran Achan the A.R.P. Officer, Trichur, is also undergoing the officer's course at Calcutta.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether any application was called for when that appointment was made?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether in the State service certain communities are over-represented and this gentleman belongs to one of those communities?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* It is not a matter of opinion, but a matter of fact. I definitely assert that in the public services certain communities are over-represented. Is the Government prepared to deny it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The appointment was not made on any ground like that. He was the Chief Warden of the A. R. P. Service at Ernakulam and therefore when a person had to be appointed at Trichur, this person with experience in A. R. P. work was chosen.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether at the time when this man was appointed there were not other people who were equally competent, if not more competent than this man?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether the A. R. P. Officer, Ernakulam, did not recommend Mr. Kumaran Achan to be the Chief Warden at Ernakulam?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether the Ernakulam A. R. P. Officer is not a Christian?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Will this man after his training get any degree or diploma?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Not exactly that. A report will be sent to the effect that he has undergone the officer's course and whether he has done well or not.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Has Mr. Devassy undergone this course?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Then cannot Mr. Devassy teach this work to the other officer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It was thought better to have these officers trained at Calcutta. The idea is to get all these officers trained, either at Calcutta or at Madras. The Instructors are also sent periodically to the different centres.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* Why should Government show this undue preference in the matter of this appointment to the members of the Bar and in the case of some other appointments to the members of this Council.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* No preference was shown to members of the Bar.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* My contention is that by appointing these gentlemen, I mean members of this Council, you are going to tamper with the independence of this Council.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* He is not a member of this Council.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* I raised two points, the appointment of vakils in preference to other persons who are graduates and secondly the tampering with the independence of the Legislative Council by extending monetary considerations to members. These are the questions.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I raise a point of order. It is an insinnuation against the honesty of the Council.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* It is not a question whether I believe or not, it is a question whether the public would give that interpretation.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* What is this insinnuation?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Is it the hon'ble member's contention that we should play to the caprices of ignorant public? *(Laughter)*

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Can a non-official member question another non-official member?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* I put that question to him through the Chair.

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Deputy President: He can put questions through the Chair.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether this A. R. P. Officer has distinguished himself in the sports-field at any time?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether these things were not taken into consideration at the time he was appointed as chief warden at Ernakulam?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* When a person is appointed, it is the local influence that a person can exercise that is taken into account. Then we see whether he is enthusiastic in the work and things of that kind. I do not think that a diploma in sports is an extra qualification for a warden's post, because there are so many wardens appointed, both in Ernakulam and Mattancheri, who do not hold any diplomas in sports. The most important thing is whether the person is enthusiastic in the work, whether he is willing to undertake the work and thirdly whether he is a person of local influence and standing, so that whatever advice he gives to the people is readily heeded to by them. The A.R.P. is a branch of work which is newly started and where it is difficult to make others believe what is said. A warden is only a person who can go about and canvass public opinion and also coach public opinion in the right directions. That is the main point that is taken into consideration in making this selection.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether there have not been people with equal qualifications, who are influential, and who can go about canvassing, who are enthusiastic in this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* I submit the same objection would have been made with regard to that person also. Government can make only one appointment and if there are ten persons of that kind and if we make one appointment out of 10, the same thing would be said with regard to the other 9.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* It is because of the fact that that community was over-represented that I make this statement. Otherwise, I would not have said that. Suppose there is another man with equal qualifications in another community. When arguments are advanced for appointing persons from communities which have been already over-represented I do not believe there is much substance in them.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Who is the present A.R.P. Officer at Trichur?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* There is no A.R.P. Officer there now. I do not know whether Mr. Achan has returned. Otherwise, there is one Instructor-in-charge.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What is his pay?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* In Trichur, the officer is paid Rs. 250.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Who is the person now acting?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Nobody acting, but there is one Instructor-in-charge.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* What is his pay?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Rs. 80.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Has he undergone any training?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* He has undergone the Instructor's course. There are three different kinds of courses. Firstly, there is the Officer's course. Then the Instructor's course for 1st grade, 2nd grade and 3rd grade Instructors, and this man has passed the 1st class Instructor's course.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the A.R.P. work is not connected or arising out of war and would last only for the duration of the war?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Yes, during the war.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether this expenditure is to be borne by our Government or by the British Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* We have requested the Government of India to contribute 50 per cent of the total expenditure on A.R.P., defence, and evacuation schemes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Why 50 per cent?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Because, you see the Government of India have issued definite instructions as to the allocation of expenditure on account of A.R.P. in the different parts of India and we thought under those directions if we get 50 per cent, we will have no reason to regret.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* My question is, is it under the instruction of the Government of India for the purpose of defence that we have started this work?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The main idea of the Government of India in this matter is that all local governments should undertake on their own all expenditure on account of A.R.P., defence, evacuation and like things. But they have added a rider that if on account of this additional expenditure that is caused by this present emergency, the budgetary or financial position of a particular government becomes rather difficult, then the Government of India will think of making a substantial contribution. We have worked out figures and we find that we have got a good cause to approach the Government of India for a decent contribution. Of course no percentage has been fixed by the Government of India as the maximum or the minimum contribution that will be contributed by them. We think, if we ask 50 per cent it will be fair both for them and for us.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Why not 75 per cent?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* Only if you can understand all the details, you can know that 50 per cent is quite a good maximum.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Of course, I can understand that. Whatever Government of India can give, we can receive. But my contention is that we are a State in treaty with the Government of India or Crown Representative, whatever that be. We are a protected State and we have been assured of our protection against both internal as well as external enemies for which we have been paying our subsidy all this time, nearly a century and quarter and more, during peace times, even. Therefore, when a foreign enemy threatens us, it is the duty of the Government of India to protect us and to spend for that. Therefore my contention is the Government of Cochin will be wrong in asking, for only 50 per cent contribution. They should saddle the India Government with the entire burden. Of course I do not stand in the way of our Highness contributing voluntarily any contribution to the India Government when they are standing in need of it. That is a different matter altogether. That is a political matter. Upon our rights we must say that the India Government must bear the entire expenditure, because that is their duty and they must discharge their duty and responsibility to us and spend the money when the occasion arises.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* That is not military expenditure proper. That is the whole trouble.

This comes under civil defence expenditure. And that is not on a par with military expenditure. The whole question goes on that presumption. This is not according to the Government of India Act a military expenditure proper. For military expenditure proper we are not charged. For any of the defence measures that is done in or about our State we are not charged. We are not also charged for the military units here for the protection of the country. We are not charged for any of these things. But this comes under civil defence and that is why all the provinces and other Indian States are also asked to bear the burden. If it were proper military expenditure, none of the Indian provinces will be asked to bear it. For example, the evacuation schemes. Though it arises out of the war, it is not military expenditure proper. Otherwise, they would have incurred the whole expenditure.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, the case of provinces is different. In the case of other native States, probably the treaties may be different. Civil defence is, after all, saving the State from external enemy.

Deputy President: The question is about the appointment of A.R.P. Officer and hon'ble members would do well to confine themselves to the subject-matter of the question. The Chair cannot allow a discussion on it.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether the service rendered by this A.R.P. Officer will be taken as a lien for further appointment when a vacancy arises?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is a hypothetical question for which the House should not ask me a categorical reply.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether under the S.O. or C.S.R. this person will have a lien on some other appointment in view of this?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* There is no lien on any other appointment. That I can assure. He is simply an A.R.P. Officer. This is a temporary appointment also.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will that be taken into account when vacancies arise?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is a hypothetical question.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I want to know whether this would be taken into consideration when vacancies arise in any department in future?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I cann't answer definitely that.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know whether as a vakil he was getting Rs. 200 a month?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: I cann't say. We have not enquired.

FUND FOR THE RELIEF OF COCHINITE EVACUEES FROM BURMA, MALAYA AND CEYLON—STARTING OF

296. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Will Government be pleased to state whether the Government intend to start a fund for the relief of the Cochinite evacuees from Burma, Malaya and Ceylon?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Government have no intention to start a fund for the purpose, at present.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Have the Government any intention to help them in any way?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes. There is. All these persons who have been affected by the war in Burma and F.M.S. have been requested to put in compensatory claims or petitions to the District Magistrate who has been appointed a Special Officer to look after their interests and after these petitions have been received the District Magistrate has been requested to forward them to the Government with the necessary recommendations. When these petitions come, Government will examine individual petitions and will consider what help should be given. I understand that in the provinces also more or less the same arrangement has been made.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Have the Government any idea as to how many people are there who belong to this State who come under that category?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: We have not got the exact figures now.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Have the Government made any effort to collect those figures?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes. The District Magistrate has been appointed a month and a half ago for this purpose, and if people apply to him he could collect all the necessary information, so that this information could be made available in due course. We are awaiting his report.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: How long the Government will have to wait to receive the report from the District Magistrate?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: Immediately he receives the petitions he forwards them with his remarks to the Government.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Do the Government consider that this is a matter which is very urgent?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: It depends upon the petitioners themselves. If the petitioner goes to him and puts in his petition he would not take unconscionably more time to forward it to Government with his remarks.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda)*: Should these petitions be stamped?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: All petitions to Government should be stamped and these are not exempted from stamp duty.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: May I know what exactly is the scope of the enquiry which the District Magistrate is conducting in regard to this matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: The main point he has to enquire is whether the person who has applied is really affected by the death of the person on whom he was depending for his livelihood or whether by evacuating from Burma or F.M.S. he is put to a severe loss and whether he is without any means of livelihood.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: Have the Government collected any statistics?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: That is done by the District Magistrate. Since petitioners go to him he will deal with them. The applicants are to go to the District Magistrate and put in their claims so-to-say. Then the District Magistrate will make the usual enquiries with the revenue officers and police and in each case he will forward the application with his own recommendations.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South)*: If the revenue authorities collect statistics of the people who come back from Burma or Singapore then we can know who are the persons that have come here. Now, in the Gazette there is a notification that such and such persons who have come from Burma, F.M.S., etc., if they put in a petition to the District Magistrate, their case

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